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Wylie's Ex-Secretary Tells of Bank Deposit

By JERR KLINE

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A stunning blue-eyed blond told a federal court jury yesterday that she once deposited government funds in the bank account of her former boss, the head of the Defense Department's budget and finance branch.

Miss Helene Harper, a 24-year-old airline hostess, testified in Alexandria District Court in the third day of the trial of her one-time boss, John A. Wylie, and William H. Godel. The two men are charged with embezzling government money.

In March, 1963, when she was Wylie's secretary, Miss Harper said, he sent her to the Pentagon offices of two "class A agents," military officers appointed to supply money for official projects. She was told to pick up two envelopes and take them to the Fairfax County National Bank, she said.

Signed Receipt

One of the two agents made her sign a receipt for the money in the envelope, but she did not count the money, she said. The government contends the envelopes contained about \$6,000.

She did not look inside the envelopes on the way to the bank, but "by the time I went to the bank, I realized I was carrying a great deal of money," the soft-voiced stewardess said.

She deposited the money, but she does not remember making out the deposit slip, she added.

Plato Cacheris, an assistant U.S. attorney, asked: "How did you get to the bank?"

"I used Mr. Wylie's car."

"What kind of car was it?" he asked.

"A white Thunderbird with red leather interior," she quickly answered.

A Maryland yacht salesman later testified he sold Wylie a 29-foot boat in March, 1963, for \$12,609, taking Wylie's old 24-foot boat in trade.

Sometime later, the salesman, Harry Lee Langley, told Wylie he could sell him a 33-foot boat "for a very little bit more," and Wylie gave him a deposit on the larger boat, he said.

The 58-year-old balding, heavy-set Wylie listened impassively to the descriptions of his car and boats.

Tells of Far East Trip

Earlier yesterday, Godel's former secretary, Mrs. Ruth Hudgins, testified that Godel's wife accompanied them on a two-month trip to the Far East in 1960 and received \$1,157 from the government for expenses.

U.S. Atty. C. Vernon Spratley Jr. asked Mrs. Hudgins what Mrs. Godel's duties were during their stay in Tokyo, Australia and other places. Mrs. Hudgins repeatedly answered: "I don't know."

"Do you know what Mrs. Godel's occupation is?" Spratley asked.

"Housewife," she answered.

Douglas Mullen, a former Defense Department travel officer, testified that a voucher

for Mrs. Godel's expenses was submitted to him without necessary travel orders.

He discussed the situation with Wylie and, eight months after the trip, an "after the fact order" for Mrs. Godel arrived in Mullen's office, he said. Mrs. Godel was listed as a "consultant without compensation," entitled to receive per diem expenses, he said.